

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Classification No
PCT/IB 03/04484

10/531011

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 141 751 A (OGAWA HIDEHARU) 31 October 2000 (2000-10-31) abstract; figures 1,2 column 1, line 29 - line 34 column 2, line 11 - line 16 column 3, line 50 -column 4, line 67 ---	1-11
X	US 5 465 084 A (COTTRELL STEPHEN R) 7 November 1995 (1995-11-07) abstract; figures 1,3 column 2, line 13 - line 31 ---	1-11
X	US 5 928 364 A (YAMAMOTO HIROSHI) 27 July 1999 (1999-07-27) abstract; figures 1,3,6,7 column 1, line 35 -column 2, line 5 ---	1-11
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *A* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

24/03/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Harms, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 03/04484

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 6 424 953 B1 (GLASSMAN STEVEN C ET AL) 23 July 2002 (2002-07-23) cited in the application the whole document -----</p>	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Publication No
PCT/IB 03/04484

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6141751	A	31-10-2000	JP 10307799 A	17-11-1998
US 5465084	A	07-11-1995	NONE	
US 5928364	A	27-07-1999	JP 9152991 A	10-06-1997
			AU 697998 B2	22-10-1998
			AU 7639096 A	19-06-1997
			CA 2211026 A1	05-06-1997
			CN 1169784 A , B	07-01-1998
			EA 725 B1	28-02-2000
			EP 0807284 A1	19-11-1997
			WO 9720265 A1	05-06-1997
US 6424953	B1	23-07-2002	AU 4172600 A	09-10-2000
			WO 0057370 A1	28-09-2000